

CITY-COUNTY COMMON
County-City Building • 555 S. 10th Street • Lincoln, NE

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AGENDA
TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2006
COUNTY-CITY BUILDING
555 SOUTH 10TH STREET, ROOM 113
9:00 A.M.

**1. APPROVAL OF COMMON MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY,
MARCH 7, 2006**

2. PRESENTATIONS

9:00 A.M. Future County Open Space Implementation - Lynn Johnson,
Parks and Recreation Department Director; Terry Genrich,
Natural Resources Manager

9:30 A.M. Pandemic Influenza Planning Update - Bruce Dart, Lincoln-
Lancaster County Health Department Director; Doug Ahlberg,
Emergency Management Director

- * Upon conclusion of the Common Meeting the Lancaster County Board will be hosting a workshop with the Planning Commission on rural development issues. The featured speaker will be Dave Ptak from Norfolk. Topics will include acreages, rural businesses, family farm splits, urban sprawl, and new legislation and case law affecting towns and counties. The workshop will run from 10:00 am to 12:00 noon, and members of the City Council are invited to attend.

CITY-COUNTY COMMON

Tuesday, May 2, 2006

County-City Building

555 South 10th Street, Room 113

County Commissioners Present: Bob Workman, Chair; Ray Stevens; Larry Hudkins, Bernie Heier and Deb Schorr.

City Council Members Present: Dan Marvin, Vice-Chair; Jon Camp; Robin Eschliman; and Ken Svoboda.

Absent: Jonathan Cook, Annette McRoy, and Patte Newman.

Others Present: Member Mayor Coleen Seng; Lynn Johnson, Parks and Rec; Terry Genrich, Parks and Rec; Bruce Dart, Health Department; Steve Beal, Health Department; Doug Ahlberg, Emergency Management; Steve Frederick, Health Department; Kerry Eagan, Administrative Services; Gwen Thorpe, Administrative Services; Coby Mach, LIBA; Ann Harrell, Mayor's Office; Trish Owen, Deputy County Clerk; and Mary Meyer, County Staff.

Chairman Workman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. Introductions of City-County Board Members. Workman called for approval of minutes of the City-County Common Meeting of March 7, 2006. Stevens moved and Marvin seconded approval of the minutes, role called and minutes approved.

Announcement of Ptak Workshop on acreages, rural businesses, family farm splits, and urban sprawl to follow Common Meeting with invitation to City Council to attend.

Future County Open Space Implementation

Johnson referred to the March meeting regarding accomplishments over the last five years on acquisition of land for open space. Stated they continue to work with various agencies obtaining grant funding, allowing for some prairie land and wetlands along Salt Creek. The NRD is working on getting conservation easements along Stevens Creek, as well as work done on acquisition of conservation of the Saline Wetlands.

Johnson said today's meeting is significant as they want to talk about the concept of formalizing an interagency, or interlocal, agreement between the City, County, and NRD, regarding open space acquisition and management. Within the 2025 Comprehensive Plan a section was added called Environmental Resources which identifies types of land to conserve; fresh water wetlands, floodplain areas, and native prairie. Also includes the Salt Valley Service Greenway. Working towards implementation of a connected system of open space, parks, and trails along the Salt Creek Branch Basin and Stevens Creek.

Last year Mayor Seng appointed a committee to look at funding for Parks and Rec facilities with a recommendation of looking at an interagency agreement with Lancaster County, the City, and the Lower Platte South Natural Resources District to cooperatively acquire and manage vital resource land, including future community resource parks and urban service areas. Based on projected community growth do look at acquiring approximately 40 acres of open land space annually to maintain standards. Now looking for interest in moving ahead with an interagency agreement for the future.

Genrich stated in mid 1960 there was an interlocal agreement between the City and County providing the County to own, and the City to manage, Wilderness Park. The agreement is very

beneficial, helping to provide public recreation and flood control. Other projects in/around Wilderness Park financed with monies the County provided.

In 1999/2000 the Wilderness Park Subarea Plan was discussed. The need identified to put together an interlocal agreement with the City, County, and NRD, to acquire County open space for natural resource protection. The draft agreement was called REPOSA, Regional Park and Open Space Authority, and would have established an agency, similar to JOVA, with authority to condemn, budget, and deal with issues. At that time the interlocal agreement was not established and think now is the time to pursue.

Genrich stated the Spring Conservation Partnership went through public process and as a joint agency project has been very successful in acquisition of property. Suggesting to look at, or do, something similar whereby money is provided by partners and prioritization established on acquisition of parcels. Could develop criteria on which agency manages, or owns, the parcels. As Lincoln grows should become less of a conservancy to areas providing recreational opportunities.

Johnson added some advantages to an inter-agency agreement would be coordinated planning, the direction the comprehensive Plan provided. Also, long term budget planning, very proactive looking for grants, maximizing or leveraging the money through other sources. The third primary benefit would be working out land management. Who's responsibility for acquisition, for the short term, and then the long term?

Hudkins stated appreciation for the background information and said the County holds title to Interstate Park, and has enjoyed beneficial relationships over the years and thinks we should continue along that vein. Stated with REPOSA they were a little reluctant to grant that type of authority. If an interlocal agreement was framed believes the City Council and County Board should both ratify anytime they go for eminent domain. Possibly if a pool of money could be established could take advantage of opportunities with willing buyers and sellers. Therefore, would have something to move forward on, knowing the perimeters. Genrich said that's actually how they pursued acquisition of parcels in the Saline Wetlands. Game and Parks Commission goes for a certain parcel, the parcel goes into the whole area of Saline Wetlands Park, and then management starts looking at the whole package. Workman posed the question of whether we want to pursue an interagency or interlocal agreement, knowing the need to acquire approximately 40 acres per year to stay ahead.

Schorr asked if the City and County had equal amounts per budgeting cycle? What type of funding mechanism? Johnson answered it would have to be worked out. When REPOSA was established they talked about pre-planning regarding priorities. Which land, and how much land each year. It would be the intent the City, County, and NRD all provide funding but would work out proposals and who the managing agency would be. Parks and Recreation probably would be recommended with Genrich providing a lot of direction in securing grants and leveraging the money. The proportional amount would be worked out.

Eschliman had a concern of acquiring 40 acres a year as developments are required to provide more green space now. Why be more aggressive than in the past, considering budget constraints? Johnson said the success comes now as money is available for the Saline Wetlands. Did acquire some native prairie and Parks & Rec, along with Watershed Management Section, had grant money to acquire some floodplain area. Johnson said he wouldn't think we would intend to be more aggressive as goal is 40 acres a year in order to keep up.

Stevens said the accomplishments are appreciated. He has been involved in specific projects, going to governmental entities to ask for funding. With the CIP process we're given the

opportunity to look at plans and make determinations of what the agency can afford for specific projects. One cooperative effort not mentioned is land west of Pioneers Park, which involved several entities. Stevens would look favorably on that type of arrangement, with all three entities, annually, looking at the CIP and planning for ahead a year or two regarding funding and the land to be acquired.

Marvin said impression shouldn't be given 40 acres are always bought annually. Some years land maybe donated, other years do have to acquire. Marvin asked for coordination clarification with other entities, like Spring Creek Prairie, and the format in which lands are held.

Genrich replied they've worked with Spring Creek, and other agencies, to protect resources around the property. The NRCS and NRD are aware of several prairie parcels and working on protection of these resources. Also important is as we acquire parcels not all are taken off of tax roles, especially if we get an easement, or land continues to be farmed. Try to minimize management with private partners. Knowing as Lincoln grows, creating more recreation management will increase. Quite often funding agencies, or grants, do require parcels to remain on the tax roles, and we continue to tax.

Marvin asked if a body, like the Commons, is seen as more coordinated, bringing more resources in terms of coordinating grants and long range planning, but also including working with people like at Spring Creek? Genrich replied they've found to be successful a partnership has to be developed. All grants pursued have been with efforts of a minimum of five other partners to acquire funds for acquisition or restoration. Spring Creek is no different than working with different agencies. If you look at the grant applications, the majority of the different agencies are actually partners.

Johnson said the Ecological Advisory Committee has been working on developing criteria to evaluate land and determine the most significant, and most important to acquire. Also to answer question about whether it should be a conservation easement, remaining in private hands/privately managed, or of significance from a recreational standpoint, or an environmental resource standpoint, and should be in public hands. Very supportive of concept of using conservation easements as a primary tool.

Heier said he knows the NRD is acquiring land along Stevens Creek, asking what present plans are for the remainder of Stevens Creek area, and Salt Creek? May relieve the financial obligation on both bodies if we knew what their plans might be.

Genrich said he didn't believe plans to grow more, other than acquiring conservation easements for flood plain protection between the Mopac and Murdock trails. Is important to note the easements are for flood plain protection at this time. Stated there's been concerns about trails on the property and opening it up to the public, and doesn't foresee that happening until development grows where there is residential areas, or commercial property, right next to those corridors. That is when we start bringing on line and developing for public access.

Heier said the Beltway is going through to Stevens Creek, and we have the bond issue with this election. Are these acres considered part of the eastern Beltway? Genrich answered it's part of the whole open space plan. The flood plain is very much a part of Stevens Creek and as the Beltway starts to develop in eastern Lincoln there are parcels which would be looked at being important for public access, or preservation. Knows of some historical properties in the area and thinks they are important to preserve, being a part of the whole package.

Workman stated at this time seems as if the comments made today are for an informal

agreement to work together. Hasn't heard comments, or a real urge, to commit to a formal agreement. Might be a possibility in the future, or something to bring before each body, separately. Workman said his assessment is that without further discussion seems like we've done a good job in the past. Knows the County Board has been very cooperative when the committee has come before them, being able to find money and go forward. So, saying that we're going to leave the subject and invite you to come to either of our bodies, individually, if you continue with this item and we would discuss it more.

Pandemic Influenza Planning Update

(Handout) Dart said they are planning for a potential pandemic influenza. The psychology is really to plan for the worst, hoping for the best, as no one knows if this is going to happen; when it's going to happen, or, if it does happen how bad it's going to be.

Dart said anyone who has had respiratory influenza, not stomach flu, has probably experienced fever, severe body aches and cough. It's a miserable disease, and people never want to get to the advanced stages. The concern is spreading by coughing and sneezing, touching hands to doorknobs, etc, being spread through objects. Generally once exposed a person will incubate 2 to 4 days and then start to experience symptoms.

Have tracked the Avian Flu globally since 1997. Has killed 2,000,000 wild and domestic birds and the concern is if it mutates from being strictly in the Asian population and shifts allowing transmission to other human populations would have a global virus with no immunity. About 200 cases of Avian flu has occurred in the human population with 6% dying, but all are cases where the people lived in very close proximity with the birds. The flu is moving globally and starting to appear in different locations. Our concern is when eventually the migratory populations hit our country.

Dart stated the Avian influenza will have to genetically shift, allowing transmittal from bird to bird and also from human to human, to project a pandemic, or global influenza problem. Right now have 2 to 3 models of a pandemic. The bird population, transmission from bird to human, and from human to human. Two of the three conditions are now met. Have had pandemic's in the past; most severe in 1918, with 20 to 40 million people dying worldwide, 600,00 in the U. S.; in 1957 with 70,000 U. S. deaths; and in 1968 with 34,000 U. S. citizens dying.

If a pandemic would occur we would create our own plan as the Federal government has said there will be no resources available with the largest concern being no vaccine. We do have some immunity in our community generated from the yearly vaccine given each year for the flu season. When the virus hits will be able to see the genetic makeup and create a vaccine to protect the public. Unfortunately, it would take six to nine months to create as 50 year old technology is still being used. Some countries have had some success with anti-viral medication, such as Tamiflu, but very hard to estimate the effectiveness with a pandemic.

Dart stated he and others, like Ahlberg of Emergency Management, work with community partners to create a response plan to ensure the community functions normally in the event of a pandemic. Believe if it occurs would come in waves, or surges, and now planning for the worst case scenario, as we don't want a social disruption but to remain viable in the advent of an outbreak. Working with community leaders and businesses focusing on our core infrastructure remaining in place and also with hospitals and other health care providers addressing this possibility. This planning group will have forums to engage the public and to encourage personal planning after the community businesses are on line. Collectively can deal with the reality if it happens.

Dart stated the plan's first draft will be completed at the end of the month and with agencies like Emergency Management plans are being formulated throughout the State. Not only have community drills but also with the State, developing best plan possible for each community. When we know the anti-virus works we do have a plan ready to administer vaccine, but need a careful plan for the first surges until vaccine is available. Also rewriting the quarantine policy, updating in order to be able to apply it in a pandemic. The need would be present to protect the community. Individual people probably will social distance themselves making sure their families are safe.

Hudkins said Svoboda and he were representatives on the Board of Health and felt it was imperative to have this presentation for this body. The thought of a pandemic is taken very seriously in Lincoln, and the State, more so than in other parts of the nation. With all the problems to be solved there is very good news that Lincoln would have a good supply of water throughout this period. Our water comes from the Ashland plant, and the electric source is supplied by the nuclear power plant in Fort Calhoun. When the cranes went through our State this spring, along with migratory birds, we were worried, and now have think about fall when they come back from the Arctic. We do need to be prepared for the worst and it has the potential of being catastrophic.

Marvin asked about the airports during this time. Dart stated they have a meeting scheduled to discuss isolating and quarantine plans which might become necessary.

Camp wanted to define the basic definitions. Avian influenza, H5N1, is not the same as the pandemic flu. Avian flu primarily in birds and difficult to transmit to humans. Then, no vaccine against pandemic flu but have vaccines against H5N1, but it is the Avian flu that causes deaths. Dart concurred but added with the individuals who have contracted the illness it's because they've been literally living with the poultry population. Did find that even when these people were infected the viral shift did not change, so they still had H5N1 and not able to transmit to others. The actual difference is when we see a genetic shift in the H5N1, and it becomes pandemic. Until the shift occurs it won't go into the pandemic phase. Do know some shift is going on, the viral has made some genetic mutations, and therefore we know it has the capability. Eventually, if the shift continues more dramatically, we'll have a virus able to transmit from human to human.

Camp stated the word, "pandemic" means broad, or continent. With the new strain of influenza does anyone in the world have influenza A, or are there cases combined with the Avian flu? Dart answered basically in the Asian population the 200 -300 people infected but possibly some cases we don't know about as they weren't reported. In the Asian countries do know who had H5N1 Influenza A and approximately 50% have died. Camp asked if the assumption would be if it mutates between humans, with the population, it can spread worldwide? Dart responded we live in a very global community, if that happens within three months it would be worldwide.

Svoboda said this has been discussed at the Board of Health meetings but anytime a body, like this one, meets every person would be at risk. If the elected bodies aren't able to meet obviously there are functions required in relation to how the government would exist. Don't know if we've asked the City attorney to review and we should possibly discuss how we would continue, possibly by phone, being televised, to maintain a stable level of government. Any other cities following, or creating, this type of plan?

Ahlberg stated continuity of government is extremely important. After the plans are in place to ensure critical infrastructure continuity, government is the next issue needed to be discussed. Have talked at the Federal level, and they're not sure at this time. The need is there

to continue to function as a governing body and this issue will be addressed shortly.

Heier said Avian flu is on everyone's mind but we don't want to frighten people from eating poultry. Important to thoroughly cook poultry. Dart stated he was pleased to have this brought up and this shouldn't affect the poultry industry. Important for people to understand.

Heier asked if the Avian flu evolved in Mexico twenty years ago? Dart stated most regular seasonal influenza are developed from viruses emitted from the Avian population, so it's progressed and circulating. The issue now is there's been a huge genetic change and no immunity developed, knowing that it's going to continue to circulate.

Schorr asked if the national experts have made predictions on what we can expect? Any information on what part of the country it would start in? Dart replied there are no ideas of where it would start, or how soon it will spread. After the first case of human transmission can start answering these types of questions. We will be able to track it, model it, and see a set path it should follow.

Eschliman asked if international air travel would stop. Would there be local control of who gets off an airplane? Dart stated the Federal government gives authority to take people off an airplane and to place them in quarantine at an airport for up to two weeks. Investigating if it happens here if we would have the authority.

Camp had a concern about the statement regarding technology we're using to develop vaccine is 50 years old. Dart said they're currently working on new technologies for vaccine creation but still have to rely on old methodologies and procedures, of the '50's, as of now.

Ahlberg said the State wants to meet within a couple of weeks but now want to applaud the Health Department as they started in November to plan and make recommendations. Will be basically on our own when it comes into our State and because of this will be in the process of stockpiling what we need. Items, such as protective clothing, will be stockpiled and reissued to people requesting, i.e., first responders, hospital medical providers. Ahlberg stated he's hoping it's like a Y2K issue but if we don't have the initial plans in place to respond to an epidemic then we're kind of remiss as governmental employees.

Workman thanked presenters. Meeting adjourned.

Submitted,

Mary Meyer
Clerk